

## Message Text

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64

ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY IATF:PHARE:SBA  
APPROVED BY IATF:LDBROWN  
IATF:FGWISNER  
EA:RMILLER  
S/S-O:PJOHNSON  
EA/TB:GROBERTS

----- 021283

O 222010Z MAY 75  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 119970

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF

SUBJECT: VIETNAMESE AND CAMBODIAN REFUGEES IN THAILAND

1. WE HAVE BEEN INFORMED BY RELIABLE CATHOLIC SOURCES, WHO RECEIVED INFORMATION FROM VATICAN, THAT THAI AUTHORITIES INTEND IN THE NEXT FIVE TO SEVEN DAYS TO FORCIBLY RETURN TO CAMBODIA AN ESTIMATED 9000 CAMBODIAN REFUGEES ON THE BORDER AND TO TAKE SIMILAR MEASURES WITH AN ESTIMATED 3500 VIETNAMESE REFUGEES WHO ARE ON SMALL BOATS AND ARE BEING REFUSED PERMISSION TO LAND ON SHORE.

2. WE NEED TO HAVE YOUR BEST ESTIMATE ON VALIDITY OF THIS REPORT BASED ON WHATEVER INFORMATION WHICH YOU CAN OBTAIN THROUGH YOUR OWN ASSETS. WE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO HAVE YOUR ASSESSMENT OF WHAT UNHCR AND ICEM ARE DOING WITH RESPECT TO REFUGEE POPULATION AND IF THEY HAVE ESTABLISHED ANY ARRANGEMENTS WITH THAI AUTHORITIES IN DEALING WITH THE PROBLEM. WE ARE AWARE, OF COURSE, OF YOUR PREVIOUS REPORTS

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ON UNSATISFACTORY THAI-UNHCR RELATIONSHIP.

3. CATHOLIC SOURCES INDICATED PROVISIONALLY VATICAN MIGHT BE WILLING TO ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR THIS GROUP, THOUGH FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AT A MINIMUM FROM USG WOULD BE NEEDED.

4. WE WOULD BE RELUCTANT FOR EMBASSY TO APPROACH THAIS THRU NORMAL BILATERAL CHANNELS AT THIS POINT, UNLESS YOU CONSIDER STEP IMPERATIVE. IF THIS IS THE CASE, YOU SHOULD INFORM US BEFORE YOU APPROACH THE THAI GOVERNMENT.  
INGERSOLL

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT, POLICIES  
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**Draft Date:** 22 MAY 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** CunninFX  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Review Authority:** CunninFX  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
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**Review Date:** 24 JUL 2003  
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**Review Transfer Date:**  
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**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** VIETNAMESE AND CAMBODIAN REFUGEES IN THAILAND  
**TAGS:** SREF, VS, CB  
**To:** BANGKOK  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006